



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0422)

Fri, 22nd Apr 2022

Viewing:

You may view objects in this auction in our gallery from 19 April to 22 April 2022. We are open Monday to Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM CET, as well as by appointment. On the day of the sale, the viewing will be open until 1 PM CET.

Lot 256

Starting price: €2000

Estimate: €4000

HOSHINO HAKUSAI: A SUPERB STAG ANTLER NETSUKE OF A CROUCHING TOAD

By Hoshino Hakusai, signed Hakusai □□

Japan, Tokyo, Asakusa District, late 19th century

A compact and finely carved stag antler netsuke of a crouching toad, the warty skin realistically rendered, and the large almond shaped eyes inlaid in dark horn. The underside shows the beautifully porous surface of the antler. The carver has utilized this material, which may have been considered by some as discardable, with incredible skill. Himotoshi underneath, the signature within a raised rectangular reserve HAKUSAI (the character Sai □ is slightly obscured).

LENGTH 4.3 cm

Condition: Excellent condition with natural flaws to the material.

Provenance: German private collection.

Hoshino Hakusai is considered one of the 'Asakusa-greats' whose output has always been regarded as very limited in scale and whose carving is very rarely encountered.

Literature comparison:

For a stag antler netsuke of a Tennin carved from a similarly porous material and signed Haku (Hakusai), see Moss, Sydney L. (2016) Kokusai The Genius: and Stag-antler Carving in Japan, vol. III, pp. 144-145, no. 420.